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# The Middle East and North Africa 2022

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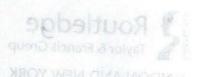
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FOREWORD

This edition of the MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, the 68th in print, provides comprehensive coverage of political and economic life at the regional, subregional and national levels. The volume is divided into three separate, though complementary, sections. In Part One a collection of introductory essays discusses the most pertinent issues affecting the region. Topics covered include China's current and historic links with the Middle East, Saudi-Iranian relations, US regional policy, the growth of political Islam and the intellectual origins of the movement, the challenges arising from the Syrian refugee crisis, and the issue of Kurdish political autonomy and identity. In Part Two specialist authors, researchers and commentators examine in detail the main political and economic events in each of the countries and territories in the region. In addition, all statistical and directory material has been thoroughly updated. Extensive coverage of international organizations and research bodies active in the Middle East and North Africa is included in a section of Regional Information, together with a comprehensive archive of documents related to the history of Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and bibliographies of essential publications for further study. A calendar of the key political events of 2020-21 enables rapid reference to the year's main developments.

During the year under review, the end of Benjamin Netanyahu's 12-year premiership in Israel was a highly significant development. At a fourth set of legislative elections inside two years, held in March 2021, neither Netanyahu's right-wing bloc nor the opposition parties held a majority in the Knesset. Efforts by Netanyahu to form a new, right-wing coalition proved unsuccessful and in mid-June a disparate alliance of opposition parties formed a new Government, under Netanyahu's former chief of staff Naftali Bennett. The new administration—comprising parties from the left and the religious right, as well as an Islamist party representing Israeli Arabs-was principally united by its opposition to

Netanyahu and appeared set to encounter internal disputes.

In Iran, Ebrahim Raisi won election as President in June 2021. Raisi, a conservative cleric and incumbent Head of the Judiciary, succeeded the moderate Hassan Rouhani at a crucial time for the Islamic Republic, amid an apparent impasse in talks with the USA over the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action regarding Iran's nuclear programme. In Tunisia, a long-running dispute between President Kaïs Saïed on one side, and Prime Minister Hicham Mechichi and parliamentary speaker Rached Ghannouchi on the other, culminated in the President dismissing Mechichi and suspending parliament in July 2021. Ghannouchi denounced the President's actions as amounting to a 'coup', while parliamentarians from his Ennahdha party were prevented from accessing the parliament building by the armed forces. Following these events, governments elsewhere in the world issued statements of concern, urging caution and the preservation of 'the country's democratic gains'. In late September Saïed suspended parts of the Constitution and named a new Prime Minister, Najla Bouden Romdhane.

Meanwhile, in early January 2021 the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Egypt signed the al-Ula Declaration at a summit meeting in Saudi Arabia. The agreement effectively ended the four-year blockade of Qatar by Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Observers noted that Qatar had proved more resilient than expected under the blockade, but that a desire among the Gulf Arab states to gain favour with the incoming US President, Joe Biden, was also a motivating factor. The political and economic crisis in Lebanon continued unabated. Despite French pressure to implement a programme of economic reforms, efforts by the Prime Minister-designate, Saad Hariri, to form a government failed. Hariri resigned in July, citing disagreement with President Michel Aoun over his nominated cabinet. Another former premier, Najib Miqati, finally formed a Government, which took office in September.

The entire content of the print edition of the MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA is available online at www.europaworld.com. This prestigious resource incorporates sophisticated search and browse functions as well as specially commissioned visual and statistical content. An ongoing programme of updates of key areas of information ensures currency of content, and enhances the richness of the coverage.

The Editors would like to express their thanks to all the contributors for their articles and advice, as well as to the numerous governments and organizations that provided statistical and other information.

October 2021

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Editors gratefully acknowledge the interest and co-operation of numerous national statistical and information offices, and government departments, as well as embassies in London and throughout the region, whose kind assistance in updating

the material contained in THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA is greatly appreciated.

We acknowledge particular indebtedness for permission to reproduce material from the following publications: the United Nations' statistical databases and Demographic Yearbook, Statistical Yearbook and Monthly Bulletin of Statistics; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Institute for Statistics database; the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' statistical database; the statistical databases of the World Health Organization; the statistical databases of the UNCTAD/ WTO International Trade Centre; the International Labour Office's statistical database; the World Bank's statistical databases, especially the World Development Indicators database, and the World Development Report; the International Monetary Fund's statistical database, International Financial Statistics and Government Finance Statistics Yearbook: the World Tourism Organization's Tourism Highlights and Yearbook of Tourism Statistics, 2021 edition, UNWTO, Madrid: the US Geological Survey; the International Telecommunication Union; the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia's National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region; Lloyd's List; and The Military Balance 2021, a publication of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Arundel House, 6 Temple Pl., London, WC2R 2PG, UK. We are also grateful to the Israeli embassy, London, for the use of two maps illustrating the disengagement agreements between Israel and Egypt, and Israel and Syria (both 1974).

The following publications have been of special value in providing regular coverage of the affairs of the Middle East and North Africa region: Maghreb Confidential and Middle East Economic Digest.

### HEALTH AND WELFARE STATISTICS: SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Total fertility rate Source: WHO Global Health Observatory. The number of children that would be born per woman, assuming no female mortality at child-bearing ages and the age-specific fertility rates of a specified country and reference

Under-5 mortality rate Source: WHO Global Health Observatory. Defined by WHO as the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of five, if subject to the age-specific mortality rates of the year or period. HIV/AIDS Source: UNAIDS. Estimated percentage of adults aged 15 to 49 years living with HIV/AIDS. < indicates 'fewer than'.

Health expenditure Source: WHO Global Health Expenditure database. Covering the provision of health services (preventive and curative), family planning activities, and nutrition activities. Public sources include domestic revenue as internal transfers and grants, transfers, subsidies to voluntary health insurance beneficiaries, non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) or enterprise financing schemes as well as compulsory prepayment and social health insurance contributions. External grants or loans for healthcare provided by international agencies and other national authorities are suspending parliament in July 2021. Channouchi denomiced the President's action

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Share of current health expenditures funded from general government sources, social health insurance and compulsory

Access to water and sanitation Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) (Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, 2000-2020). Defined in terms of the percentage of the population using improved facilities in terms of the type of technology and levels of service afforded. For water, this includes house connections, public standpipes, boreholes with handpumps, protected dug wells, protected spring and rainwater collection; allowance is also made for other locally defined technologies. Sanitation is defined to include connection to a sewer or septic tank system, pour-flush latrine, simple pit or ventilated improved pit latrine, again with allowance for acceptable local technologies. Access to water and sanitation does not imply that the level of service or quality of

Carbon dioxide emissions Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database, citing the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (sponsored by the US Department of Energy). Emissions comprise those resulting from the burning of fossil fuels (including those produced during consumption of solid, liquid and gas fuels and from gas flaring) and

Human Development Index (HDI) Source: UNDP, Human Development Report (2020). A summary of human development measured by three basic dimensions: prospects for a long and healthy life, measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge, measured by adult literacy rate (two-thirds' weight) and the combined gross enrolment ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary education (one-third weight); and standard of living, measured by GDP per head (PPP US \$). The index value obtained lies between zero and one. A value above 0.800 indicates very high human development, between 0.700 and 0.799 high human development, between 0.550 and 0.699 medium human development, and below 0.550 low human development. A centralized data source for all three dimensions was not available for all countries. In some cases other data sources were used to calculate a substitute value; however, this was excluded from the ranking. Other countries, including non-UNDP members, were excluded from the HDI altogether. In total, 189 countries were ranked for 2019.

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